Mercy Medical Center Update – September 21, 2022

A New Labor Rep with a Familiar Face!

We are pleased to introduce your new labor representative! Effective immediately your own Bridget Lovelace, BSN, RN, will be taking on the ONA staff role. Gary Aguiar, your current interim representative, will assist her with this transition over the coming four to eight weeks.

Bridget joined ONA first as a member in 2006, picketing outside Mercy with her then three-year-old daughter during the initial negotiations for Mercy’s first contract. She became active in the local bargaining unit in 2018, as treasurer-secretary and then became vice-chair on the executive committee.

She has volunteered as a steward and as a bargaining unit representative for our current contract as well as the 2018 wage reopener. Within her department and the hospital, she has served as chair of her unit based council, co-chair for the staffing committee, and as a member of the Professional Nurse Practice Council. She will continue to work as a casual part-time nurse in the day surgery department. She has enjoyed her sixteen-plus year career as a bedside nurse at Mercy and has worked in a variety of practice settings including on the surgical floor, PCU, ICU, PACU, and day surgery/ endoscopy units.

Bridget is a strong proponent of nurse empowerment, professional strength, and the creation of unity within the nursing profession. She loves being a nurse and the nursing profession. She believes nurses working to support each other and their coworkers raise the standards of the work and practice environment. By assisting with the creation of healthy and sustainable working environments for the bedside nurse she hopes to positively impact the future of the profession as well as improve patient outcomes.

Bridget was born and raised in Alaska, transplanted to Oregon in 1998, and has lived in the Roseburg area since 2003. She is married to a nurse, who practices in the OR at Mercy, and has one of her three grown children attending nursing school. She enjoys adventures with her spouse such as back roads mountain motorcycling, hiking, mountain biking, and more recently scuba diving and rafting.

Bridget’s transition to staff at ONA leaves our local bargaining unit with an unfilled seat on our executive committee. Anyone interested in leading, supporting and representing the nurses at Mercy, should reach out to a steward or member of the executive team. Expect an announcement on elections for the open position on the executive team and possible steward trainings.